

**§ 173. Same; persons employed deemed postal employees.**

Any person employed to make immediate delivery of letters or other mail matter shall be deemed an employee of the postal service, whether he may have been sworn or not, or temporarily or permanently employed, and as such employee shall be liable to any penalties or punishments provided by law for the improper detention, delay, secretion, rifling, embezzlement, purloining, or destruction of any letter or other article of mail matter, or the contents thereof, intrusted to him for delivery or placed in his custody. (Aug. 4, 1886, ch. 901, § 4, 24 Stat. 221.)

**§ 174. Same; messengers deemed carriers.**

Every special-delivery messenger, when actually engaged in carrying or delivering letters or other mail matter under contract, directly or indirectly, with the Post Office Department, or employed by the Post Office Department, shall be deemed a carrier or person intrusted with the mail and having custody thereof within the meaning of sections 320, 321, and 324 of Title 18. (Mar. 3, 1903, ch. 1009, § 4, 32 Stat. 1176.)

**§ 175. Same; allowance for car fare for messengers in first-class offices; delivery in first- and second-class offices.**

**CODIFICATION**

Section, act June 2, 1900, ch. 613, § 1, 31 Stat. 260, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 22, 59 Stat. 459, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 872 of this title.

**§ 176. Same; assistant superintendents; per diem.**

**CODIFICATION**

Section, act Feb. 24, 1899, ch. 187, § 1, 30 Stat. 884, is now covered by section 823 of Title 5, Executive Departments and Government Officers and Employees.

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**§ 191. Extension of service.**

Rural mail delivery shall be extended so as to serve, as nearly as practicable, the entire rural population of the United States. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

**§ 192. Routes; classes; increase of length of routes and pay of carriers.**

All rural mail-delivery routes shall be divided into two classes to be known as—

Standard horse-drawn vehicle routes, which shall be twenty-four miles in length, and

Standard motor-vehicle routes, which shall be fifty miles in length, and shall only be established when a majority of the proposed patrons who are heads of families residing upon such proposed routes shall by written petition ask the Post Office Department to establish the same.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the establishment of horse-drawn vehicle routes of less length than the standard of twenty-four miles. If, in the discretion of the Postmaster General, in order to render more complete service, it should be necessary to do so the Postmaster General may increase the length of routes not to exceed 50 per centum above the standards herein prescribed. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

**§ 192a. Consolidation of routes.**

No consolidation of rural routes shall be made otherwise than on account of the resignation, death, retirement, or dismissal on charges of carriers in the Rural Mail Delivery Service. (June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 3, 48 Stat. 1213.)

**§ 193. Motor vehicles.**

Nothing herein shall be construed, and no order shall be issued, to prevent the use of motor vehicles on horse-drawn vehicle routes. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

**§ 194. Carriers to furnish necessary vehicle equipment.**

Carriers in rural mail-delivery service shall furnish all necessary vehicle equipment for prompt handling of the mail. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

**§ 195. Sufficient equipment.**

The Postmaster General in his discretion may require all carriers to furnish sufficient equipment to properly handle postal business on their routes. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

**§ 196. Carriers; restrictions; carrying merchandise.**

Letter carriers of the rural free-delivery service shall not solicit business or receive orders of any kind for any person, firm, or corporation, and shall not, during their hours of employment, carry any merchandise for hire: *Provided*, That said carriers may carry merchandise for hire for and upon the request of patrons residing upon their respective routes, whenever the same shall not interfere with the proper discharge of their official duties, and under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe. (Apr. 28, 1904, ch. 1759, § 1, 33 Stat. 439; Mar. 4, 1915, No. 15, 38 Stat. 1227; Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, § 8, 43 Stat. 1063.)

## § 197. Salaries of carriers.

## CODIFICATION

Section, acts Mar. 4, 1915, Joint Res. No. 15, 38 Stat. 1227; Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, § 8, 43 Stat. 1063; June 25, 1934, ch. 471, § 1 (a), 48 Stat. 1212; June 25, 1938, ch. 707, § 1, 52 Stat. 1205; July 30, 1941, ch. 331, § 1, 55 Stat. 609, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 197a. Same; reduction.

## CODIFICATION

Section, acts June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 1 (d), 48 Stat. 1213; May 16, 1938, ch. 224, 52 Stat. 377, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 198. Salaries of carriers serving triweekly routes.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, § 8, 43 Stat. 1064, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 199. Determination of pay of carriers and substitute carriers.

The pay of rural carriers and substitute rural carriers, which depends upon the length of the route, shall be determined in accordance with the records of the Post Office Department, which records shall be promptly corrected whenever the Postmaster General determines that such records are now correct. (Apr. 24, 1920, ch. 161, § 1, 41 Stat. 582.)

## § 200. Deductions from salaries.

Deductions for failure to perform service on a standard rural delivery route for thirty miles and less shall not exceed the rate of pay per mile for service for thirty miles and less; and deductions for failure to perform service on mileage in excess of thirty miles shall not exceed the rate of compensation allowed for such excess mileage. (Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, § 8, 43 Stat. 1064; June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 1 (b), 48 Stat. 1213.)

## § 201. Substitute carriers.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act Apr. 21, 1902, ch. 563, § 1, 32 Stat. 112, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 202. Rate of compensation of temporary carriers.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act Mar. 2, 1907, ch. 2513, 34 Stat. 1213, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 203. Carriers; leave of absence; substitutes.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act Mar. 2, 1907, ch. 2513, 34 Stat. 1215, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, §§ 6, 17, 59 Stat. 436, 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by sections 856 and 867 of this title.

## § 204. Compensation of carriers on water routes.

In the discretion of the Postmaster General the pay of any rural carrier on a water route who furnishes his own power boat and is employed during the summer months may be fixed at an amount not exceeding \$900 in any one calendar year. (Mar. 1, 1909, ch. 232, 35 Stat. 669.)

## § 205. Additional compensation to carriers carrying pouch mail to intermediate post offices.

The Postmaster General may, in his discretion, allow and pay additional compensation to rural letter carriers who are required to carry pouch mail to intermediate post offices, or for intersecting loop routes. In all cases where it appears that the carriage of such pouches increases the expense of the equipment required by the carrier or materially increases the amount of labor performed by him, such compensation not to exceed the sum of \$12 per annum for each mile such carrier is required to carry such pouch or pouches. (July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423.)

## § 206. Carriers; equipment maintenance.

## CODIFICATION

Section, acts July 28, 1916, ch. 261, § 1, 39 Stat. 423; Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, § 8, 43 Stat. 1064; June 30, 1932, ch. 314, Pt. II, title I, § 112, 47 Stat. 403; Ex. Ord. No. 6176, June 16, 1933; Ex. Ord. No. 6332, Oct. 12, 1933; Ex. Ord. No. 6675, Apr. 13, 1934; June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 1 (c), 48 Stat. 1213, was superseded by act July 6, 1945, ch. 274, § 17, 59 Stat. 455, eff. July 1, 1945, and is now covered by section 867 of this title.

## § 207. Temporary reduction of pay of rural carriers.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 363, 42 Stat. 993, was superseded by act June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 1, 48 Stat. 1212, and which in turn has been superseded by section 867 of this title.

## § 207a. Same; reduction by percentage applicable to Federal employees.

## CODIFICATION

Section, act June 25, 1934, ch. 741, § 2, 48 Stat. 1213, provided for reduction during fiscal years 1934 and 1935 of salaries of rural carriers by percentage of reduction applicable to salaries of other Government employees.

## § 208. Repealed. July 24, 1946, ch. 611, 60 Stat. 659.

Section, acts Mar. 3, 1917, ch. 162, § 1, 39 Stat. 1068; Feb. 28, 1919, ch. 69, § 1, 40 Stat. 1194, related to compensation of mail carrier on Lake Winnebaukee.

## § 209. Classification of clerks in Rural Free Delivery Service not otherwise provided for.

The Postmaster General may classify clerks in the Rural Free Delivery Service into four classes, graded even hundreds of dollars, at \$900, \$1,000, \$1,100, and not exceeding \$1,200 per annum. (Apr. 21, 1902, ch. 563, § 1, 32 Stat. 112.)

## § 210. Allowance of expenses by Postmaster General.

The Postmaster General may allow such per diem and other incidental expenses in connection with the Rural Free Delivery Service as Congress may from time to time provide. (Apr. 21, 1902, ch. 563, § 1, 32 Stat. 112.)

## § 211. Post-office inspectors; administering oaths.

Post-office inspectors and examining inspectors in the Rural Free Delivery Service shall be authorized and empowered to administer oaths to carriers and other persons employed in said service or in connection with any business relating to the same. (Apr. 21, 1902, ch. 563, § 1, 32 Stat. 113; Apr. 28, 1904, ch. 1759, § 1, 33 Stat. 439; June 26, 1906, ch. 3546, 34 Stat. 467.)

**§ 212. Community mail boxes; erection and maintenance; rental.**

Under such regulations as he may provide the Postmaster General is authorized to purchase community boxes with separate compartments for incoming and outgoing mail and to erect and maintain such community boxes and suitable sheltered racks or stands for rural mail boxes, in such selected localities as he may determine. The units of said boxes and space in said racks or stands shall be rented at their option to patrons of the Rural Delivery Service at such monthly or annual rates as the Postmaster General shall determine, based on the cost of installation and maintenance. The cost of such installation and maintenance of said community boxes and sheltered stands, not exceeding \$2,000 per annum, shall after May 29, 1928, be paid from the appropriation for rural delivery. (May 29, 1928, ch. 899, 45 Stat. 985.)

**Chapter 6.—MAIL MATTER.**

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**§ 221. Classification of mail matter.**

Mailable matter shall be divided into four classes:

First, written matter;

Second, periodical publications;

Third, miscellaneous printed matter and other mailable matter not in the first, second, or fourth classes;

Fourth, merchandise and other mailable matter weighing not less than eight ounces and not in any other class. (Mar. 3, 1879, ch. 180, § 7, 20 Stat. 358; Feb. 28, 1925, ch. 368, §§ 206, 207, 43 Stat. 1067.)

**§ 221a. Typewriting classed as handwriting.**

Typewriting shall continue to be classed as handwriting as provided by the Postal Laws and Regulations. (June 9, 1930, ch. 415, 46 Stat. 526.)

**§ 222. First-class matter.**

Mailable matter of the first class shall embrace letters, postal cards, and all matters wholly or partly in writing, except as provided in sections 63, 224-226, 227, 228, 236, 237, 239, 243, 250, 253, 275, 280, 286, 321, 358, 384, 435 of this title and sections 328, 332, 357 of Title 18. (Mar. 3, 1879, ch. 180, § 8, 20 Stat. 358.)

**§ 223. Same; limit of weight.**

The limit of weight of mail matter of the first class shall be the same as is applicable to mail of the fourth class. (May 18, 1916, ch. 126, § 11, 39 Stat. 162.)

**§ 224. Second-class matter.**

Mailable matter of the second class shall embrace all newspapers and other periodical publications which are issued at stated intervals, and as frequently as four times a year and are within the conditions named in sections 225 and 226 of this title. (Mar. 3, 1879, ch. 180, § 10, 20 Stat. 359.)

**§ 225. Same; examination; advertisements attached to periodicals.**

Matter of the second class may be examined at the office of mailing, and if found to contain matter